

**Community Sustainability Council
Greensboro, North Carolina
January 12, 2009**

A meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, January 12, 2009 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, beginning at 3:10 p.m. Members present were: Co-Chair Joel Landau, Co-Chair Bob Powell, Art Davis, Bob Kollar, Joe Venable, Marlene Sanford, Tom Duckwall, Tom Clary, Debbie Leiner, and Carolyn Allen. Staff present were: Dan Curry, HCD; Steve Randall, Energy and Sustainability Program Manager; and Jeryl Covington, Director of Environmental Services.

1. Approval of Minutes from the December 8, 2008 Regular Meeting:

Ms. Allen moved to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2008 meeting, seconded by Ms. Sanford. The Council voted unanimously 9-0 to approve the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Leiner, Venable, Kollar, Sanford, Duckwall, Clary, Allen. Nays: None.)

2. Report on the December 10, 2009 Workshop on "Building a Sustainable, Local Food Economy":

Mr. Duckwall attended the workshop and gave an overview to Council members. The workshop was well-attended by producers, retailers, and other individuals interested in food production and distribution. Mr. Duckwall stated that the workshop was an input and information gathering event and he gave a description of some of the topics. A summary of the event can be found on the Farm to Fork website distributed earlier to members. Ms. Leiner commented that some of the important issues on the website include preserving farmland, energy costs of food, food security, and the loss of open space in North Carolina due to development.

Mr. Davis joined the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

3. Greensboro Carbon Emissions Inventory Update:

Ms. Covington presented preliminary findings based on her work to determine Greensboro's carbon footprint. Resources that are used for calculating emission factors are mostly governmental and have been used for other greenhouse gas calculations. She stated that the largest municipal sources she has looked at included transportation, water, waste water processing, waste disposal, and utilities. She discussed the interpretation of data, challenges of components such as employee habits, fuel mileage, and the lack of complete information dating back to the 1990 baseline. She is waiting for city departments to finish gathering their data before the project can be completed. (see Attachment 1)

Dr. Francis Nkrumah, who is a Research Associate at A&T State University, gave a presentation to the Council on greenhouse gas emissions. He explained greenhouse gas emissions and pointed out the consequences of global warming and climate change. He reviewed the methodology for his community-focused greenhouse gas inventory along with the energy consumption of his data sources which included residential, commercial, industrial, transportation, and waste. More work remains to be done before an action plan can be formulated. He reiterated the challenge of obtaining data. (see Attachment 2)

Co-Chair Powell stated that the carbon emissions inventory would be discussed in depth at a future meeting and information would be sent to Council members for their review.

4. EPA Sustainable Skylines Proposal Update:

Mr. Curry advised the Council that the Sustainable Skylines proposal was submitted to the EPA on time and a decision should be made by April of 2009.

5. Summary of the Principles of "Peak Oil":

Co-Chair Landau briefly familiarized Council members with the principles behind peak oil. The urgency of the issue as the finite oil supply levels off and consumer demand increases. He discussed the implications of a shortage in the vulnerable oil supply and the increasing need for an accessible regional food supply. He shared websites with the Council that focus on what national municipalities are doing about these issues. (see Attachment 3)

6. Update on Status of CSC Survey:

Mr. Curry stated that 54 people have completed the online CSC survey. The top issues to be dealt with according to the survey were promoting transportation, land use policies to reduce sprawl, education, and maintaining healthy urban forests. He will send current survey results to Council members. It was agreed to leave the survey up for another month.

7. Planning for Report to City Council:

Co-Chair Powell suggested that planning for the report to City Council should begin with a template containing category topics and subcommittees should be formed to pursue the topics. The Council discussed topic development and strategies, possible budget implications, and the introduction of incentives. They decided to have a separate work session dedicated to creating a preliminary report to present to City Council. Co-Chair Landau stated that he would investigate the possibility of having an intern help with the details.

Members agreed to hold the next meeting on February 9, 2009 from 1:00 p.m. until 5 p.m. The first two hours will be spent planning the report, and the regular meeting will commence at 3:00 p.m. Co-Chair Powell will e-mail Council members reminding them of the new time. A list will also be sent out to members to allow them to sign up for the subcommittee of their choice.

8. Items from Co-Chairs:

- **Cool Cities Workshop**

The Cool Cities Workshop will be held January 24, 2009 in Winston-Salem. The workshop will focus on things that local governments can do to reduce carbon emissions to improve energy efficiency.

- **CERT Presentation**

There will be a CERT workshop on February 26, 2009 at A&T State University on sustainable energy alternatives and low income communities.

- **Global Warming Teach-In**

There will be a nationwide event taught through schools on global warming on February 5, 2009. Details can be found in an earlier e-mail sent to Council members.

Co-Chair Landau informed members of a film series on sustainability held every month on the UNC-G campus. The next film, titled *Waste Equals Food*, will be shown on January 29, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at Weatherspoon Art Gallery. A discussion will be held following the film. He also reminded the group that an organizational meeting of Sustainable Greensboro will be held Tuesday, January 27, 2009.

9. Items from Group Members:

- **Update on E-mails to the CSC Website**

Co-Chair Landau advised members that the problem receiving e-mails to the CSC website has not been resolved. He shared the emails that have been forwarded to him until the problem can be fixed.

10. Items from Staff:

Ms. Covington stated that there will be a meeting on January 13, 2009 in Winston-Salem regarding new regulations on ozone and the impact on this area.

Co-Chair Landau advised the Group that there are three vacancies on the Council as Ms. Yarbray, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Allen have withdrawn. Members discussed plans to find replacements to fill the empty seats.

Mr. Clary left the meeting at 5:09 p.m.

11. Items from the Public:

Beth McKee-Huger spoke from the audience and informed the group that the 2009 Housing Summit will be held on February 26, 2009. She distributed brochures and invited members to attend.

12. Acknowledgement of Absences:

Mr. Davis moved to acknowledge the absence of Mr. Hoekstra, seconded by Ms. Allen. The Council voted unanimously 10-0 to approve the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Leiner, Venable, Kollar, Sanford, Duckwall, Clary, Allen, Davis. Nays: None.)

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13. Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 5:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau and Bob Powell
Co-chairs

JL-BP:sm/jd